

# SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

## Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

### February, 2002

*This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Fourth Middlesex Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.*

### Residents of Fourth Middlesex Senatorial District

#### Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 2.2% (2,702) reside in the Fourth Middlesex Senatorial District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (513) of Fourth Middlesex Senatorial District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 75.1% of admissions from the Fourth Middlesex Senatorial District were male and 24.9% were female.
- Over 59.9% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 79.2% of admissions were white non-Latino, 10.9% were black non-Latino, 6.0% were Latino, 0.7% were Asians, and 3.3% were other racial categories.
- 65.7% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 11.2% were married, and 16.7% reported not to be married now.
- 22.9% of admissions had less than high school education, 48.7% completed high school, and 28.5% had more than high school education.
- 30.1% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 23.4% of those admitted were homeless.
- 12.7% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

#### Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Fourth Middlesex Senatorial District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Fourth Middlesex Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
<b>FY '95</b>	3,805	3,205	1,154	1,274	831	979	598
<b>FY '96</b>	3,642	3,040	1,256	1,263	906	984	677
<b>FY '97</b>	3,467	2,872	1,139	1,028	739	996	714
<b>FY '98</b>	3,274	2,599	1,024	931	591	1,001	759
<b>FY '99</b>	3,251	2,518	968	936	555	1,137	873
<b>FY '00</b>	2,973	2,260	813	795	435	1,051	810
<b>FY '01</b>	2,702	2,013	769	680	305	988	755

- Since FY 1995, residents of Fourth Middlesex Senatorial District reported a steady decrease in alcohol use, while heroin use remained fairly level.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting marijuana, cocaine, and crack use decreased by more than 30%.

#### **Primary Substance of Use:**

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Fourth Middlesex Senatorial District.

<b>Table 2</b> <b>Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001</b>					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
<b>District</b>	51.5%	32.8%	5.3%	3.5%	2.6%
<b>State</b>	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While alcohol as a primary drug of use in your Senatorial District was higher than the State average, marijuana and heroin as a primary drug was lower within your District.